

Appl. No. 09,700,806
Amd. dated September 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of treating a nitric oxide (NO) associated disorder in a mammal, wherein the disorder is hypertension, diabetes, thrombosis, angina, atherosclerosis, or heart failure, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) variant or VEGF receptor agonist, wherein the variant or agonist is selective for a KDR receptor.

2. -7. (cancelled)

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said effective amount of VEGF variant or VEGF receptor agonist enhances nitric oxide production in said mammal.

11.-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A method of stimulating sustained production of endogenous NO in an endothelial cell, comprising exposing the endothelial cell to an effective amount of a VEGF receptor agonist, wherein the agonist is selective for a KDR receptor, and whereby the endothelial NO synthase (eNOS) in the endothelial cell is up-regulated.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the VEGF receptor agonist is a VEGF variant having selective binding affinity for KDR receptor.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the VEGF variant comprises one or more amino acid substitutions at or between positions 17 to 25 of the native VEGF sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4).

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17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein in VEGF variant comprises at least the following amino acid substitutions: M18E, Y21L, Q22R and Y25S.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the VEGF variant comprises one or more amino acid substitutions at or between positions 63 to 66 of the native VEGF sequence.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the VEGF variant comprises at least the following amino acid substitutions: D63S, G65M, L66R.

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the disorder is hypertension, angina, thrombosis, heart failure, or atherosclerosis.

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